

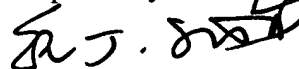
If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, it must be examined on the merits even though it includes claims directed to distinct or independent invention. M.P.E.P § 803. The subject matter of Groups I and II are believed sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of either group would encompass a search for the subject matter of both groups. To avoid duplicative examination by the Patent Office and unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of all the claims, not just those of Group II.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that if a determination of an allowable generic claim is issued, claims that are written in dependant form or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claim should be considered. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(c). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider rejoining the claims of Group I upon a finding of allowability of the claims of Group II.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to Deposit Account No. 061910. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted



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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 06-1910.